(b) whether representations have been received from Tobacco Growers Union against restrictions on tobacco;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what are the measures proposed to encourage tobacco cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Tobacco Board has taken the following measures to assist FCV tobacco growers:—

(i) Planning and regulation of the crop-size to ensure remunerative prices to growers.

(ii) Implementation of development and extension schemes to improve the quality and yield of tobacco and to reduce cost of production.

(iii) Tying up of bank credit for inputs.

(iv) Conducting auction to ensure accurate weighment and classification and competitive prices.

**Tobacco Cultivation**

804. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any efforts to encourage tribal tobacco farmers in West Godavari district and East Godavari district to improve their system of tobacco cultivation;

(b) so, the details thereof; and

(c) the funds that have earmarked for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tobacco Board has been implementing various plan Schemes on subsidy basis for increasing yield and quality of FCV tobacco. Details for 1993-94 in respect of East and West Godavari districts of A.P. are as follows:

| S. No. | Name of the Scheme | No. of ST Growers covered | Expenditure (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| I. | *Improving yield & quality of tobacco.* | | |
| | (a) Balanced fertilization | 56 | 0.16 |
| | (b) Pest & Disease Control | 48 | 0.10 |
| | (c) Topping & Suckering | 18 | 0.03 |
| | (d) Sprinkler irrigation | 4 | 0.22 |
| II | *Improving of Curing & storing facilities* | | |
| | (a) Replacement of Flue pipes | 3 | 0.02 |
| | (b) Replacement of Furnance sets | 5 | 0.07 |
| | | | 0.60 |

(N.B. In some case S. T. Growers were covered under more than one scheme)

(c) A provision of Rs. 6.04 lakhs has been made during 1994-95 (B.E.) under tribal sub-plan including coverage of tribals of East and West Godavari districts. Details of tribal sub-plan schemes proposed for A.P. and Karnataka under 1994-95 (B.E.) are given below:-

| Schemes | Outlay (Rs. lakhs) |
|---|---|
| (a) Improvement of yield and quality of FCV tobacco. | 1.09 |
| (b) Improvement of curing/ storage facilities | 1 95 |
| (c) Development of Non-FCV tobacca. | 3.00 |
| | 6.04 |

**Contingency Plan to reduce Imports**

805. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a contingency plan to reduce imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Most of our imports are essential imports for production of goods for the domestic market and for export production. The apprehension that the liberalisation process would drastically increase imports does not appear to be jutiged considering the trends in imports.

**Setback to Indian Tea Exports to UK**

806. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian tea exports to United Kingdom have suffered a setback in the first three months of the current year;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) During April-June, 1994 quantum of shipment licences issued for exports to United Kingdom have been of the order of 3.28 Million Kgs. as against 2.42 Million Kgs. during the crresponding period of previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**मिटको और एम.एम.टी. सी. का विलय**

**807. श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह :** क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार द्वारा मिटको का एम. एम. टी. सी. में विलय किये जाने संबंधी कोई योजना बनायी गयी है या दोनों का विलय कर दिया गया है ;

(ख) क्या इसका मिटको के कर्मचारियों पर प्रतिकूल प्रभाव पड़ा है और उनमें से कई कर्मचारियों की छंटनी कर दी गयी है ; और

(ग) पिछले दो वर्षों के दौरान मिटको द्वारा निर्यात किये गये अभ्रक का श्रेणीवार ब्यौरा क्या है और इससे उसे कितने लाभ, या हानियां हुई ?

**वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री प्रणब मुखर्जी) :** (क) सरकार मिटको के भविष्य के बारे में, एम. एम. टी. सी. के साथ विलय सहित अनेक प्रस्तावों पर विचार कर रही है।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) एक विवरण–पत्र सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है।